

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 IO-10 CU-02 /078 W

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P R 111626Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2702

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 5589

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINT, SP

SUBJ: DETENTION OF SPANISH OFFICERS

REF: (A) MADRID 5559; (B) MADRID 5554; (C) MADRID 5363

SUMMARY: THE FEW STATEMENTS ISSUED PUBLICLY BY SENIOR SPANISH MILITARY OFFICERS, AND THE SEVERAL PRIVATE COMMENTS MADE TO US, ON THE RECENT ARREST OF 10 YOUNGER SPANISH MILITARY OFFICERS FOR ILLEGAL POLITICAL ACTIVITY HAVE BEEN REMARKABLY UNIFORM AND UNINFORMATIVE. ALL HAVE SOUGHT TO PLAY DOWN THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS INCIDENT AND TO STRESS THE DETERMINATION OF THE ARMED FORCES TO EXCLUDE FROM ITS RANKS ANY POLITICAL ACTIVITY.  
END SUMMARY.

1. A GOOD EXAMPLE OF A SENIOR MILITARY OFFICER'S REACTION TO THE RECENT ARRESTS WAS PROVIDED BY OUR EFFORTS LATE LAST WEEK TO INTRODUCE CONGRESSMAN RYAN OF CALIFORNIA TO THE AIR FORCE  
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DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF, MAJ. GEN. CARLOS DOLZ. ALTHOUGH A GOOD

FRIEND OF MANY AMERICANS AND USUALLY LOQUACIOUS, HE TOOK CONSIDERABLE PAINS TO ASSURE THAT THE MEETING WAS ARRANGED WITH UTMOST DISCRETION AND THEN ADHERED CLOSELY TO WHAT APPEARS TO BE A ORE OR LESS COMMON LINE OF CONVERSATION. HE SAID THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF OFFICERS INVOLVED WAS 15 AND THAT OF THIS NUMBER ONLY A HARD CORE HAD COMMITTED THE SERIOUS OFFENSE OF BEING IN CONATCT WITH "COMMUNISTS" (HIS DEFINITION OF WHICH IS QUITE BROAD). THE OFFICER CORPS WAS UNITED IN ITS REPUDIATION OF THIS, AND INDEED ANY, POLITICAL ACTIVITY WITHIN THE MILITARY. HE INSISTED THAT NO, REPEAT NO, REPERCUSSIONS WERE TO BE EXPECTED WITHIN THE MILITARY FROM THESE ARRESTS.

2. SIMILARLY REASSURING COMMENTS BOTH IN PUBLIC AND TO THE AMBASSADOR BY ARMY LT. GEN. VALLESPIN, CHIEF OF THE HIGH GENERAL STAFF, WERE REPORTED IN REFTELS B AND C. STILL, BOTH HE AND ARMY MINISTER FRANCISCO COLMA FELT CONSTRAINED OVER THE WEEKEND TO CORRECT THE IMPRESSION SOME MAY HAVE RECEIVED FROM VALLESPINSJS EARLIER PUBLIC STATEMENT THAT THERE COULD HAVE BEEN A CONNECTION IN THE MINDS OF THE OFFICERS ARRESTED BETWEEN THEIR ACTIVITY AND EVENTS IN PORTUGAL. COLOMA ALSO STRESSED THE STRICTLY APOLITICAL MISSION OF THE ARMED FORCES, DOWNPLAYED THE RECENT ARRESTS, AND INSISTED THERE WAS NO CONNECTION BETWEEN THEM AND THE DETENTION LAST WINTER OF TWO OFFICERS IN BARCELONA.

3. IT ALSO MAY BE NO COINCIDENCE THAT THE INFLUENTILA RIGHTIST LT. GEN (RETIRED) CARLOS INIESTA CANO, FORMER HEAD OF THE CIVIL GUARD, IN A LENGTHY INTERVIEW FOR THE WEEKEND PRESS UNDER-LINED THE MILITARY'S DEDICATION TO FRANCO, JUAN CARLOS, AND ITS APOLITICAL MISSION. HE, TOO, DENIED ABSOLUTELY THAT THERE IS ANY DIVISION IN THE MILITARY FORCES.

4. COMMENT: IT SEEMS CLEAR FROM THESE AND OTHER COMMENTS OF WHCH WE ARE AWARE THAT THE MILITARY LEADERSHIP, WHILE DESIROUS OF DELIVERING AN INSTRUCTIVE LESSON TO THE FORCES AT TIME OF INCREASING POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN SPAIN, IS CONCERNED TO KEEP A RIGHT REIN ON THIS CHAIN OF EVENTS, TO THE POINT THAT GENERALLY WELL-INFORMED PEOPLE SEEM THUS FAR TO HAVE ONLY FRAGMENTARY INFORMATION.

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